

John 13:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Analysis

When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit (ἐταράχθη τῷ πνεύματι, etarachthē tō pneumati)—Jesus experiences deep emotional distress. The passive verb suggests both external circumstances and internal wrestling. This is genuine humanity; the Word made flesh feels anguish at impending betrayal. Earlier Jesus was "troubled in spirit" at Lazarus' tomb (11:33); here betrayal by an intimate friend causes spiritual turmoil.

And testified (ἐμαρτύρησεν, emarturēsen)—solemn witness. **Verily, verily** marks authoritative pronouncement. **One of you shall betray me** (παραδώσει με, paradōsei me)—"betray" literally means "hand over." Jesus knows which disciple will deliver Him to death yet has broken bread with him. The phrase "one of you" emphasizes proximity and intimacy—not an outsider but an insider commits treachery. This fulfills Psalm 41:9, "mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."

Historical Context

Betrayal by table companions violated ancient Near Eastern hospitality sacred bonds. Sharing bread created covenant loyalty obligations. Judas' betrayal was cultural sacrilege compounding moral evil. John writes to assure Christians that Jesus knowingly went to the cross—not caught by surprise but sovereignly orchestrating redemption through even the betrayer's treachery.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' emotional turmoil reveal about His full humanity and compassion?
2. How does Jesus' foreknowledge of betrayal yet continued love for Judas display divine grace?

Interlinear Text

Ταῦτα εἶπεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐταράχθη τῷ πνεύματι καὶ
thus had G3588 When Jesus he was troubled G3588 in spirit and
G5023 G2036 G2424 G5015 G4151 G2532

ἐμαρτύρησεν καὶ εἶπεν ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἶ
testified and had Verily Verily I say unto you that one
G3140 G2532 G2036 G281 G281 G3004 G5213 G3754 G1520

ἔξι ὑμῶν παραδώσει με
of you shall betray me
G1537 G5216 G3860 G3165

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:21 (Parallel theme): And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Mark 14:18 (References Jesus): And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.

John 13:18 (Parallel theme): I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

John 12:27 (Parallel theme): Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

John 11:33 (Spirit): When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

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